

AMHERST COUNCIL ON AGING MINUTES

April 4, 2002

Members Present: Isaac BenEzra, Al Chevan, Janice Denton, Alan Root, Sara Wolff

Staff Present: John Clobridge, Nancy Pagano, Barbara Slovin, Maureen Vanhoutte

Other: Doris Holden, Senior Trust Treasurer, ProTem

COA Minutes

Isaac BenEzra made a motion, seconded by Al Chevan, that **unapproved COA minutes should be distributed only to COA members and staff**. This was voted unanimously.

Senior Trust Treasurer's Report

Doris Holden reported that \$2,000 from the Edward Jones account was transferred into the Northampton Cooperative Bank's checking account. Disbursements of \$105 were given to the Senior Center Club to reimburse it for scholarships given; \$188.50 to Berkshire Springs (water).

Jim Becker will attend the next COA meeting in May regarding future investments.

Nominating Committee

Sara Wolff and Alan Root interviewed the five applicants. **They recommended Jean Haggerty and Doris Mundo to fill the two current vacancies**, based on their qualifications, backgrounds, and perspectives. It was felt that their life and career experiences would compliment as well as contrast with current members of the council. The committee felt all the applicants looked good. **The COA voted unanimously to support these recommendations.**

Budget Update

John reported on FY03 municipal budget reductions. The Town Manager has requested that the COA reduce its Center Activities funds 20% from \$10,000 to \$8,000. After some discussion, Alan Root asked Sara Wolff and Barbara Melrose to develop a strategy for Town Meeting.

Nancy Pagano noted that there are other cuts which will impact the Senior Center as well, such as a drastic reduction to the congregate housing budget that affects Maura Plante and Eunice Torres and the fact that HVES is anticipating budget cuts that probably will affect their nutrition programs.

Al Chevan requested that John seek updated information for the council about the state budget as it affects elders.

Transportation Grant

There was a short discussion about the grant application process for the new van. Senator Stan Rosenberg continues to be very helpful in this area. The pre-grant has been submitted. The committee is preparing for the actual grant application now, which they have been advised will look like last year's.

Wellness Criteria Committee

The form for participants in Wellness programs is nearly completed. Town Counsel suggested a waiver statement to be added. The committee is hoping to shorten it and to make it more "user-friendly". They will present the final version to the COA at the May meeting.

A survey (designed by the Wellness Criteria Committee) is being done of area fitness centers serving seniors. The committee will discuss the results at their next meeting.

To avoid a duplication of effort, Nancy suggests that the Wellness Committee and COA program committee join forces.

Other

- Isaac BenEzra announced that the Pioneer Valley Ad-Hoc committee's rally to defend health care for all was going to be held at the Bangs on Friday, April 5th, at 12:30 PM. (At risk: Mass. Health: Save Medicaid).

- Wolff complimented Root's article in April's *The Senior Spirit* entitled, "Get Up and Go".

- John announced that Stan Rosenberg and Senate President Tom Birmingham would be at the Bangs on April 10th at 9:15 AM to meet with S.C. staff and interested COA members to briefly answer questions about common concerns. President Birmingham is likely to be running for Governor in the upcoming election.